



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#17/D  
10/8/03  
V/M Hart

**Applicant(s):** DAVID D. DEMAREST, et al.

**Examiner:** Clark F. Dexter

**Serial No:** 09/776,658

**Art Unit:** 3724

**Filed:** February 5, 2001

**Docket:** 8924ZA (ETH-1551)

**For:** Suture Cutting System

**Dated:** September 29, 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RECEIVED**

OCT 07 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

RESPONSE TO EX PARTE QUAYLE ACTION

Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed 29 July 2003 in the above-captioned application pursuant to *Ex parte Quayle*, closing prosecution on the merits, indicating claims 21-39 as allowable, and requiring the correction of minor informalities. In response thereto, please enter the following amendments.

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on September 29, 2003.

Dated: September 29, 2003

  
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David J. Torrente